

# MUSTANG DAILY

1916 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY 2007

## Today's weather



Rainy

Low 40° High 60°

## Mustang pole vaulter strives for comeback

IN SPORTS, 12

## DanceSport founder brings first ever ballroom dancing competition to Cal Poly

IN SPOTLIGHT, 7



## Missing student case remains open

Janelle Eastridge  
MUSTANG DAILY

A judge ruled Feb. 2 that the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of Kristin Smart, a Cal Poly student who vanished in 1996, is not considered cold. This ruling allows the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department to continue to investigate the case.

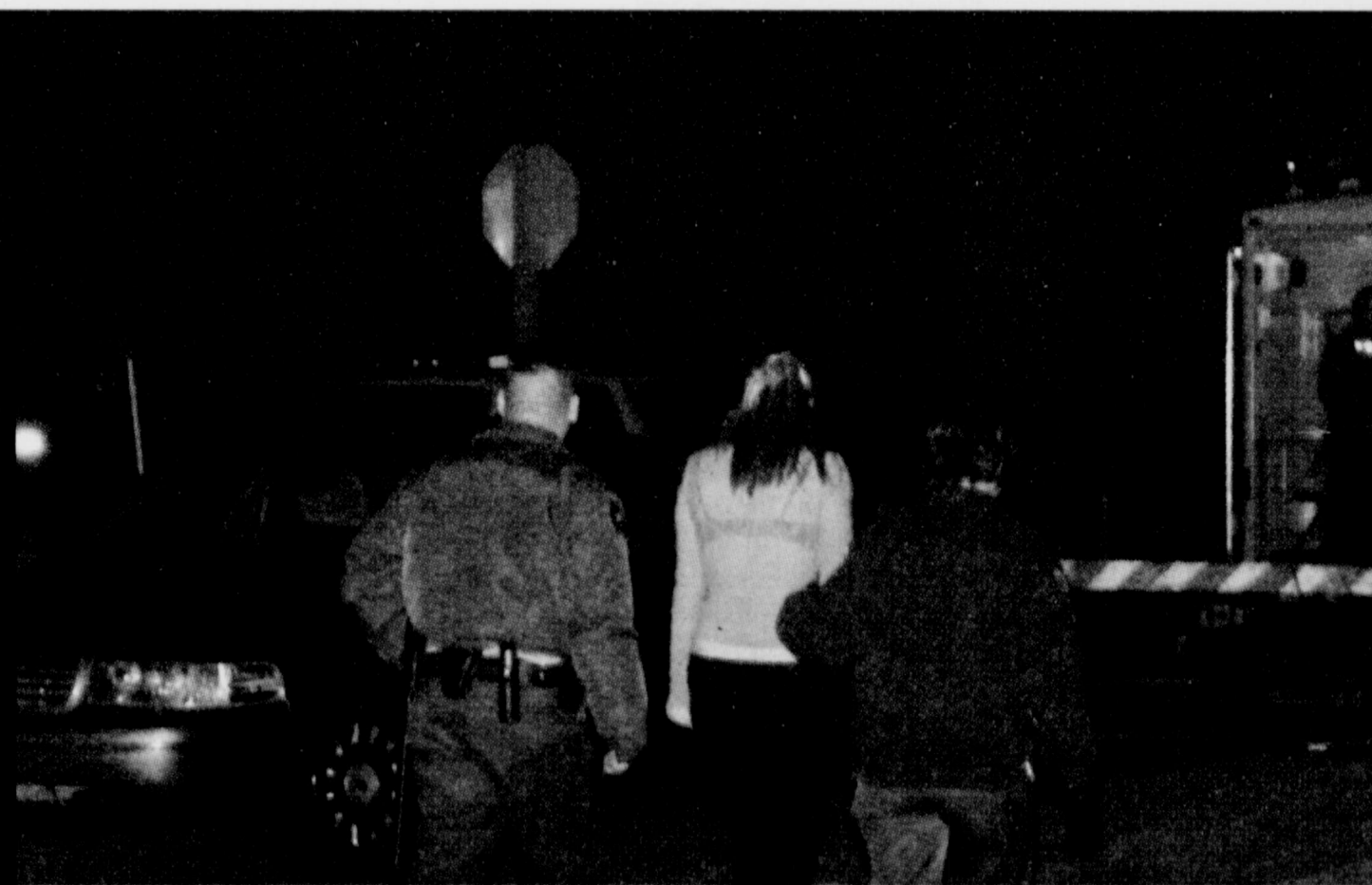
Judge Charles Crandall set a September re-examination hearing to review the file for perhaps the final time. If no major investigative discoveries are made before then, the case will most likely be declared cold, he told The Tribune.

"Plaintiffs are pleased with the ruling — the case remains stayed, yet is being actively investigated by the Sheriff's Department, according to the camera review of the sheriff's detective's declaration," said Tana Coates, attorney for Stan and Denise Smart, Kristin Smart's parents, in an e-mail interview.

Crandall has met with the Sheriff's Department every six months to review the case and determine whether the case should be closed.

If the judge rules that the case is cold at the September hearing, records and documents from the

Kristin Smart



Police anticipate a Mardi Gras with "significantly less" police officers from Feb. 16 to 20, following the presence of 450 officers in 2005 and 350 in 2006.

## Low-key Mardi Gras ahead

Josh Krane  
MUSTANG DAILY

The local police presence during this weekend's Mardi Gras celebrations will be scaled back considerably compared to the previous two years, the San Luis Obispo Police Department said.

After a large-scale riot during the 2004 celebrations led to 206 arrests, the San Luis Obispo

Police Department multiplied its police force nearly eight times for the past two Mardi Gras weekends, drawing heavily on officers from neighboring departments.

Though figures were not released, the police presence will be "significantly less" for this year's celebrations, which take place Feb. 16-20, said San Luis

Obispo Police Department Capt. Dan Blanke. In 2005 there were 450 officers and 350 in 2006.

"We're saying it's going to be a significant presence," said Blanke, who is in charge of police operations for Mardi Gras weekend. "We're confident that we can still handle anything that

see Mardi Gras, page 2

### BY THE NUMBERS

206

The number of arrests in the week of Mardi Gras in 2004.

82

The number of arrests in the week of Mardi Gras in 2005.

48

The number of arrests in the week of Mardi Gras in 2006.

## Navy seeks to deploy dolphins against terrorist swimmers

Thomas Watkins  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — Dozens of dolphins and sea lions trained to detect and apprehend waterborne attackers could be sent on a mission to patrol a military base in Washington state, the U.S. Navy said Monday.

In a notice published in this week's Federal Register, the Navy said it needs to bolster security at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, located on the Puget Sound close to Seattle. The base is home to submarines, ships and laboratories and is potentially vulnerable to attack by terrorist swimmers and scuba divers, the notice states.

Several options are under consideration, but the preferred plan would be to send as many as 30 California sea lions and Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins from the Navy's Marine Mammal Program, based in San Diego.

"These animals have the capabilities for what needs to be done for this particular mission," said Tom LaPuzza, a spokesman for the Marine Mammal Program. The Navy is seeking public comment for an Environmental Impact Statement it's preparing on the proposal.

LaPuzza said because of their astonishing sonar abilities, dolphins are excellent at patrolling for swimmers and divers. When it detects a person in the water, a Navy dolphin drops a beacon. This tells a human interception team where to find the suspicious swimmer.

Dolphins also are trained to detect underwater mines; they were sent to

see Dolphins, page 2

## Cal Poly student manages own business before graduation

Samantha Freitas  
MUSTANG DAILY

Many college students have a hard time balancing their lives with school, work and maintaining a social life. It's not until they've moved on from term papers and finals that they have to worry about the stress of a career.

However, one Cal Poly student is taking on school and a career simultaneously. Kristina Spitale is the owner of Crazy Cowgirl Jewelry & More in San Luis Obispo and an agriculture management senior.

Crazy Cowgirl Jewelry & More, which opened in December 2006, carries a variety

### Mustang Daily Tuesday Profile

ety of western, retro and classic jewelry, purses and home decor.

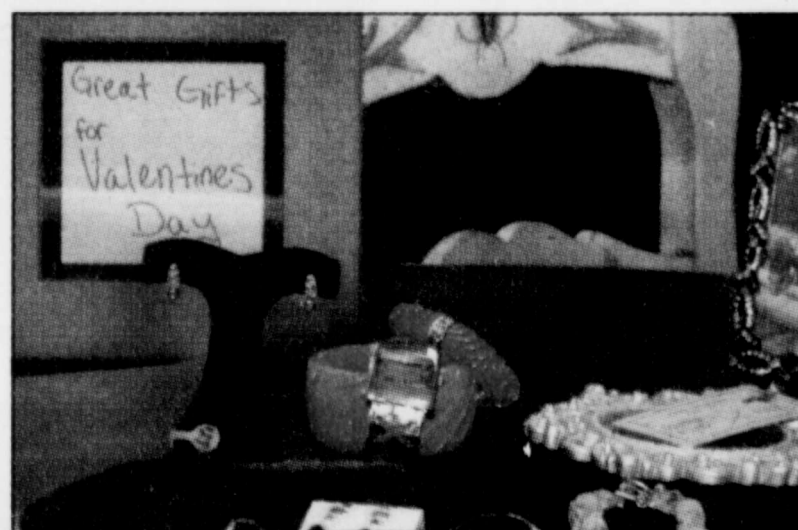
"We opened the week before Christmas, which was great because I really wanted to be open before the holidays, but it happened to be during finals week which made it really hard," Spitale said.

Opening her business during finals week was one of many scheduling conflicts Spitale has had between work and school. She keeps her prices low by not hiring any other employees, which means

she is at work running her store every day. "Now that I'm doing this, I have to schedule all of my classes really early and really late," she said. "It's not easy, but it has worked out."

Spitale started her business shortly after beginning college by using the money she earned from selling heifers, sheep and steer at the Mid-State Fair while she attended Templeton High School where she was president of the school's National FFA Organization, an organization dedicated to agricultural science education.

Spitale found success selling jewelry at high school and college rodeos throughout California out of tents and make-shift



GRAIG MANTLE MUSTANG DAILY

Agriculture management senior Kristina Spitale opened Crazy Cowgirl Jewelry & More in December 2006.

see Cowgirl, page 2





In this photo made available by the U.S. Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class Russell Barnhill works with his dolphin team member, K-Dog, in San Diego. K-Dog is part of Marine Mammals Systems Platoon of Naval Special Clearance Team one.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Dolphins

continued from page 1

do this in the Iraqi harbor of Umm Qasr in 2003. The last time the animals were used operationally in San Diego was in 1996 when they patrolled the bay during a Republican convention.

Sea lions can carry in their mouths special cuffs attached to long ropes. If the animal finds a rogue swimmer, it can clamp the cuff around the person's leg. The individual can then be reeled in for questioning.

The Navy wanted to deploy marine animals to the Northwest in 1989, LaPuzza said, but a federal judge sided with animal-rights activists concerned about the effects of cooler water, as well as how the creatures would affect the environment. Water in the Puget Sound is about 10 degrees cooler than in San Diego Harbor, which has an average temperature of about 58 degrees, LaPuzza said.

Since then, the Navy has taken the dolphins and sea lions to cold-water places like Alaska and Scandinavia to see how they coped.

"They did very well," LaPuzza said. If the animals are sent to Washington, the dolphins would be housed in heated enclosures and would only patrol the bay for peri-

ods of about two hours.

Stephanie Boyles, a marine biologist and spokeswoman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said sea mammals do not provide a reliable defense system, and they should not be kept in small enclosures.

"We believe the United States' citizens deserve the very best defense possible and this just isn't it," Boyles said, adding that dolphins are easily distracted once in open water. "They don't understand the consequences of what will happen if they don't carry out the mission."

Among the other options the Navy is considering for the Kitsap-Bangor base are the use of human interception teams and remote-controlled machines.

The Navy has been training marine mammals since the 1960s, and currently keeps about 100 dolphins and sea lions. Most of these are in San Diego, but about 20 are deployed at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.

Dolphins live for up to 30 years. LaPuzza said the Navy occasionally gives its retired animals to marine parks but generally keeps them until they die of old age.

The Navy hopes eventually to downsize its marine mammal program and replace the animals with machines.

"But the technology just isn't there yet," LaPuzza said. "The value of the marine mammals is we've been doing this for 35 years and we've ironed out all the kinks."

## Cowgirl

continued from page 1

displays.

After a few years, she upgraded her display to a trailer and intended on making enough money to open a permanent location shortly after graduation.

"I always knew I wanted to own a business right after I graduated, it's been my plan since I was young," she said. "I didn't ever think I would have a business while I was still in school, but it just worked out this way."

Despite the long hours and busy schedule, Spitale said owning her business has perks that keep her motivated and push her through the mornings when all she wants to do is sleep.

"I am getting such good experience. When professors talk about real-world scenarios, I can relate because a lot of times it's things I've actually done," she said. "I'm not going to be shocked by reality after I graduate."

Spitale's ultimate plan, if her business continues to do well, is to hire full-time employees so she can begin a career as a sales representative.

"If this business doesn't work out, I will still have my jewelry. It's something I will always be able to do no matter where I'm at in my life," Spitale said.

Crazy Cowgirl Jewelry & More is located at 799 Foothill Blvd., Suite D in the Ferrini Square. You can find out more information at the Web site, [www.crazy-cowgirl.com](http://www.crazy-cowgirl.com).

## Case

continued from page 1

investigation will be made available to the plaintiffs and the public at large. If not, the Sheriff's Department will continue their investigation.

Either way, "it (will be) a no harm, no foul" decision, Coates said.

After leaving a party on May 25, 1996, freshman student Smart was last seen with fellow student Paul Flores on her way back to the dorms. However, many of the details surrounding her last night remain uncertain.

Smart's body has yet to be found, and Flores continues to be

the main suspect under investigation.

Smart's parents have been pursuing a civil suit against Flores since May 2003. The court declared Smart legally dead in 2002.

The Sheriff's Department insists that the case is under active investigation and that it continues to review the case and follow leads as they come up.

"Our stance going into court is that it is still open and active," said Sgt. Brian Haskel, public information officer for the sheriff's department. "We are trying our best to solve this case and find a solution for the family, for closure for them."

## Mardi Gras

continued from page 1

might occur."

Agribusiness junior Jason Fullmer, who was on the street during Mardi Gras in 2004, said the reduced police presence makes him more inclined to participate in this year's celebrations.

"It's a good idea to have security toned down because last year there were cops everywhere," he said. "It's good to have police around because it keeps everyone under control, but it should be within reason."

Officers, many of whom will be on bicycles and motorcycles, will maintain their largest presence downtown and in the north end of San Luis Obispo, which extends from Santa Rosa Street to Grand Avenue.

The reduction in officers is the last part of a three-year plan the City Council passed in 2004 to stop raucous partying during Mardi Gras. In 2005, the Police Department launched "The Party is Over" campaign that used print and radio ads, door hangers, highway signs, posters and other media to deliver its message.

The city continued the campaign last year under the slogan "The Party is Still Over." In 2005 and 2006, 82 and 48 arrests were made during Mardi Gras weekend in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

Though police plan to use door hanger outreach in heavily student-populated areas, there is no

slogan for this year's campaign, Blanke said.

University Police Chief Bill Watton, whose department will team up with SLOPD for Mardi Gras weekend, said the fervor surrounding the holiday has largely died down in recent years.

"When you look at our students, only fourth- and fifth-year students were here during the problem time," he said. "The newer students weren't here and don't know what Mardi Gras was, so we thought we could scale it down a little bit." The University Police Department will call up about 30 officers from the California State University system for Mardi Gras, Watton said.

Architecture freshman Emily Kirwan said she had heard of the 2004 Mardi Gras riot before coming to Cal Poly. She said she will probably go out this year.

"I think there are a lot of police around already," she said. "They don't need to go full force."

From midnight on Friday until after "Fat Tuesday," San Luis Obispo will become a "safety enhancement zone," meaning those receiving citations for public urination, hosting parties with minors, weapons offenses and noise complaints will be subject to enhanced fines. The fines range from \$350 to \$700, depending on how many citations the offender received in the previous 12 months.

Those cited with public nudity offenses will receive a \$100 fine.

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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## Briefs

### State

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Police shot and killed a mentally ill man after he stabbed an officer's chest armor with a sharp object during a disturbance at a group home for the disabled, authorities said.

The man, identified as Francisco Mondragon, 24, died Sunday at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, said Lt. Paul Vernon, a police spokesman.

Officers were called to Fair Oaks Manor around 2 a.m. Sunday after Mondragon became violent and threatened two residents and a staff member, said the facility's director, Mark Cruz.

• • •

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Smoking marijuana eased HIV-related pain in some patients in a small study that nevertheless represented one of the few rigorous attempts to find out if the drug has medicinal benefits.

The Bush administration's Office of National Drug Control Policy quickly sought to shoot holes in the study.

The study, conducted at San Francisco General Hospital from 2003 to 2005 involved 50 patients suffering from HIV-related foot pain known as peripheral neuropathy.

### National

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A couple whose home was destroyed when Hurricane Katrina ripped holes in its roof paid their premiums on time, but their insurance company failed to properly or promptly pay their claim for damages, their lawyer said on Monday.

In opening arguments for a trial that could set the tone for thousands of other cases against insurers, Christy Howley said Lawrence Tomlinson and his wife Elizabeth paid their premiums in a timely manner but didn't get paid for their Katrina claims until after they sued in January 2006.

• • •

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — House Democratic leaders circulated a nonbinding resolution Monday saying that Congress "disapproves of the decision of President George W. Bush ... to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq." The measure, expected to come to a vote by Friday, also says that "Congress and the American people will continue to support and protect the members of the United States armed forces who are serving or who have served bravely and honorably in Iraq."

### International

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran's hard-line president, who has berated the United States and refused to compromise on his nuclear program, is now softening his tone, saying Monday he wants dialogue rather than confrontation in Iraq. Tehran also denied giving sophisticated weapons to militants to attack U.S. forces. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad insisted that turmoil in Iraq is bad for his country and dialogue — not force — was the solution to the region's conflicts.

• • •

**BEIJING (AP)** — Six countries reached a tentative agreement Tuesday on initial steps toward North Korea's nuclear disarmament that could usher in the first concrete progress after more than three years of talks marked by delays, deadlock and the communist country's first nuclear test explosion.

The U.S. envoy to the talks, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, emerged in the early morning hours of Tuesday looking weary after a marathon 16-hour negotiation and announced that a tentative deal had been struck at the latest round of six-party talks on the North's nuclear program.

## Soldiers' doubts weigh heavy on mission to lay foundation for Baghdad security plan

**Ryan Lenz**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Soldiers spearheading the increase in U.S. forces in Baghdad are papering car windows and storefronts with purple stickers listing telephone numbers and an e-mail address where Iraqis can send intelligence tips to help stop the violence.

But if a recent sweep in search of car bomb makers is an indication, they have a long way to go to improve intelligence.

Soldiers from the Army's 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment converged this week on a religiously mixed north Baghdad neighborhood of auto parts stores and "chop shops" that Iraqi commanders believed was used to rig deadly car bombs.

Moving door to door, Iraqi and U.S. soldiers smashed padlocks with sledge hammers, clipped through wire gates and rifled through hundreds of buildings as Iraqi mechanics, their hands slick with grease and motor oil, peered from nearby shops.

Instead of discovering a network of clandestine car bomb factories, the soldiers instead found only a few Kalashnikov rifles, eight grenades and some wire.

"We're told this new surge is going to be more intelligence-based instead of just hitting random sites," said Staff Sgt. Jamie Slagle, 31, of Morrisville, Mo., as he flipped through a stack of unused stickers. "But that's what seems to me to still be going on."

U.S. officials have urged Iraqis to be patient and have cautioned that the new security operation could take months to show results. That's a hard message to swallow for Iraqis who have endured years of violence — including a triple car-bombing Monday that killed at least 71 people in the heart of the capital.

The U.S. military has advertised some successes, including the discovery of 14 weapons caches during a series of raids and patrols in Baghdad during the week that ended last Friday. On Thursday,

see Security Plan, page 4

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- Program Costs
- Questions and Answers

For more information: contact Miriam Rabban, International Education & Programs,

Math Bldg. 38, Room 145, Tel. 805-756-6161



## Security Plan

continued from page 3

U.S. and Iraqi troops arrested two members of a car bomb-making cell in Amiriyah, a Sunni neighborhood near Baghdad airport, the command said.

But for the soldiers of the 23rd Regiment, the results of the new phase have been disappointing so far. Some of them fear that the delays in kicking off the new security operation may have given Sunni and Shiite extremists time to flee the capital or hide their weapons.

"Why are they sending us ground pounding?" asked Spc. Kevin Gibson, 26, of Shiloh, Ohio, as he slumped on a dusty couch in an abandoned office after a day of futile searches.

What still seems lacking, soldiers say, is good intelligence — and cooperation from Iraqis themselves.

"It's like a 50-50 game. Fifty percent is good intelligence and 50 percent is just plain bull," said Spc. Brett Rochon, 22, of Ansonia, Conn. "You've got a better chance of walking around the street."

Since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003, U.S. military officers have been courting tribal leaders, repairing schools, clearing streets and making contacts — all with the goal of winning public support against insurgents and militias.

But transforming goodwill into useable intelligence has proven elusive. And sometimes, the insurgents have turned the tables by spreading false information under the guise of

friendly tips.

Last month, U.S. troops launched a raid on Haifa Street in central Baghdad after receiving a tip that insurgents were in the area. As the Americans arrived, they were ambushed and one American was killed.

"The first target we went to, as soon as we dismounted, they started throwing grenades at my guys like they knew we were coming," said Capt. Isaac Torres, 34, of San Diego, Calif., a company commander.

Nevertheless, the U.S. has little choice but to rely heavily on the Iraqis — both civilians and military — if it stands any chance of success in pacifying the capital. Under the new plan, Iraqi forces will take the lead in securing city neighborhood by neighborhood — with American units standing by in case of trouble.

"We will have to share the burdens and move forward together," Gen. David Petraeus said Saturday when he assumed command from Gen. George W. Casey. "If we can do that and if we can help the people of Iraq, the prospects of success are good. Failing that, Iraq will be doomed to continued violence and civil strife."

But some soldiers fear that the ranks of the Iraqi police and army are now so riddled with militiamen and insurgent sympathizers that the strategy may backfire.

"The newest plan had the best chance of being effective two years ago. But I don't think it has much of a chance now. It's just too late. The militias are embedded in everything," Slagle said.

# Arizona legislature to rule on driving-while-texting law

Andrea Lerch

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

TUCSON, Ariz. — Text-messaging while driving could become a secondary offense, complete with fines up to \$200 if the Arizona state Legislature passes a bill proposed by Rep. Steve Farley, D-Tucson.

According to the bill, a driver could not only be pulled over for text-messaging while driving, but could also be fined if pulled over for another offense while text-messaging.

The fine for a driving-while-texting, or DWT, offense would be \$50.

If a driver causes an accident while text-messaging, the fine would increase to \$200.

According to the bill introduced by Farley Jan. 16, not only would it be illegal to compose text-messages while driving, it would also be illegal to read them while driving.

The bill does not mention talking on a cell phone while driving, or using any other cell phone function other than text-messaging.

Thirty-seven percent of people ages 27 and younger admit to text-messaging while driving, according to a study conducted by Nationwide Mutual Insurance

released on Jan. 22.

In the study, younger drivers reported using their cell phones the most while driving.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration conducted a study of driving distractions and acci-

engineering senior, said he does not text-message while driving, but even if he did, this bill would not make him stop.

"You would have to be an idiot to hold your phone in front of your face while you're driving," Lewis said. "How would they even know that you are texting? ... I've seen girls put on makeup, read a newspaper and drive at the same time. I'm sure there are a lot worse things you could do while driving."

Some students admit to text-messaging while driving.

"All you have to do is hold your phone down low, so they don't see," said Sarah Merkle, a psychology senior. "I feel like this bill is pointless because how are police going to know you are texting? But it's a good idea."

Morgan Lor, an engineering management sophomore, said he text-messages while driving but thinks it's very dangerous.

"I don't think that law can be enforced, but I think it's a good idea because people who text and drive are horrible drivers," Lor said.

Nicole Hauptman, a psychology senior, said if the bill is passed, she might stop text-messaging while driving when streets are really busy, but not if there isn't much traffic.

"I text-message while driving but I probably shouldn't because it is distracting," she said.

dents, during which they followed 241 drivers for one year.

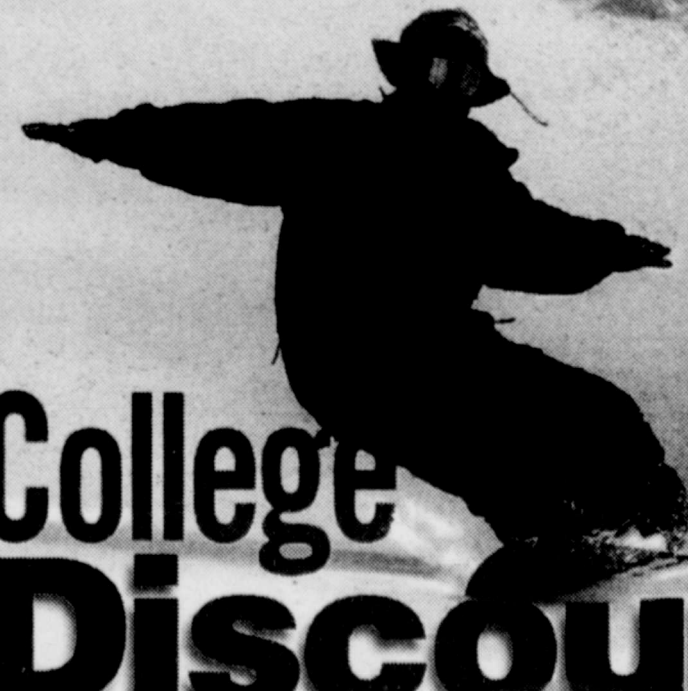
The study, released in April 2006, found that cell phone usage was the biggest distraction to drivers.

Although evidence indicates there is an obvious danger in text-messaging while driving, many University of Arizona students are not sure how a law like this would work.

Thomas Lewis, an aerospace




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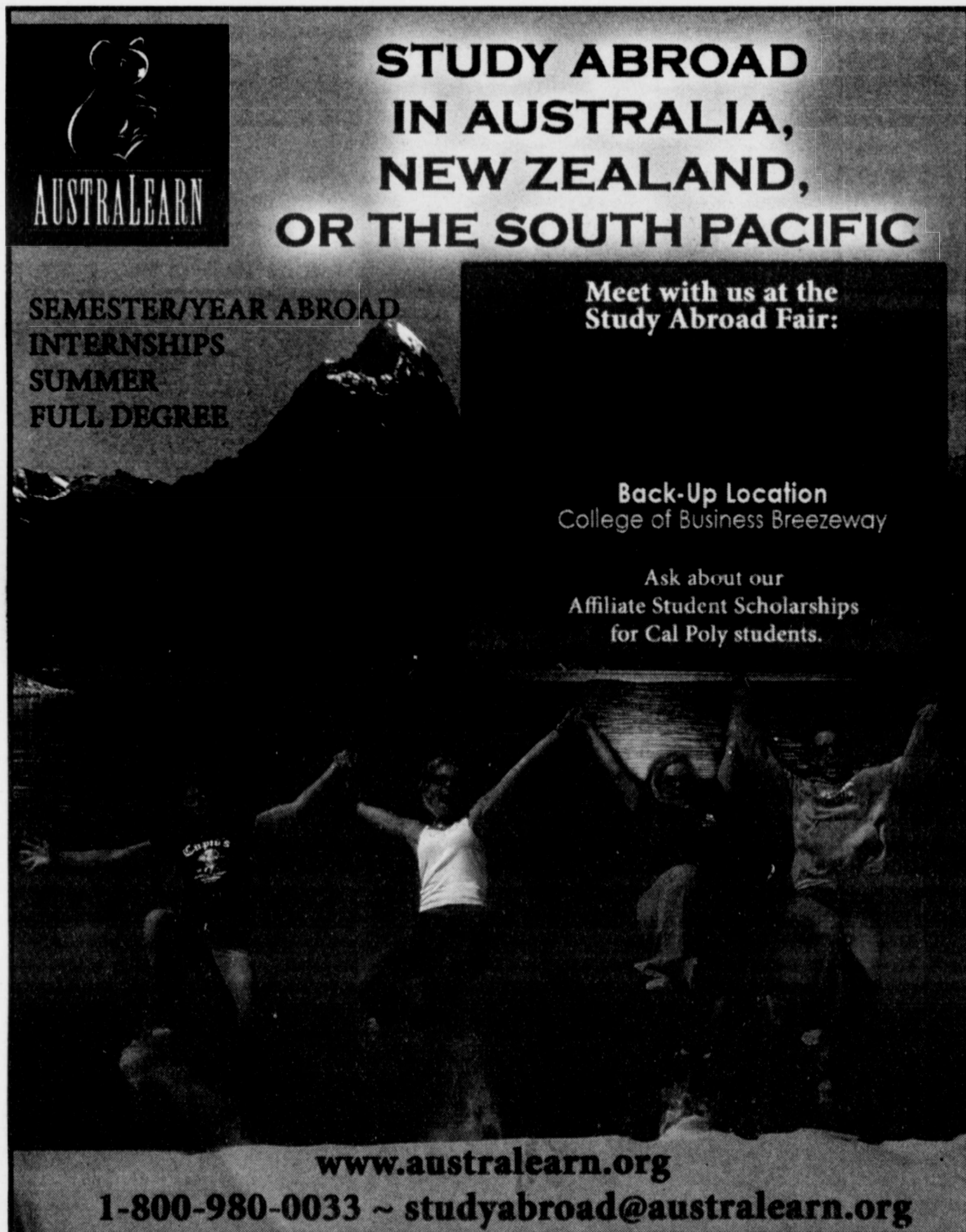
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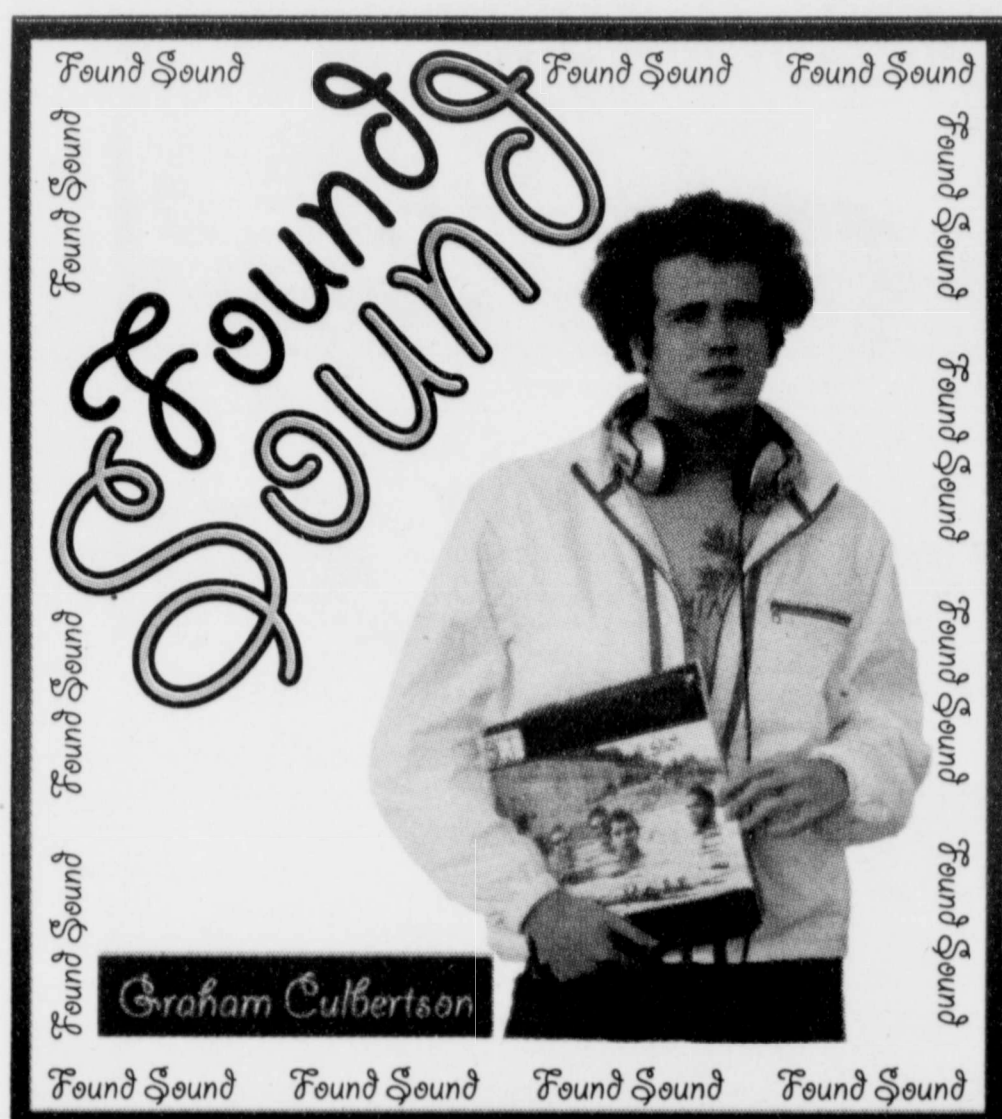
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## Little Wings takes flight in SLO

Ward going to Merge Records and Field going to K Records. One received cross over fame. One received a devoted fan base.

I e-mailed Kyle a few months back with the hope that he would play a big show at a venue in town. His reputation is high among people surrounding me and I felt assured of a successful show and a large crowd. In response, he requested a house show with some hat-passing to provide money. I quickly agreed, but plans died as time passed and I heard no response.

At 5:03 a.m. last Tuesday, he responded asking for a house show on that Thursday. I quickly agreed and organized it between projects, studying, work and classes. He got to my house at 7:30 p.m., engaging quickly in the party that formed as The Black Shirts and Watercolor Paintings played on my deck. Among coffee cups of wine and shared cigarettes, we prepared for his plan of a crowded, dimly-lit set in my living room.

Once the change of band location was announced, time passed in darkness in the living room between close quarters and plumes of smoke stretching out across guitar tuning. On the cassette tape recording of the show, the commotion stops and silence sur-

rounds the first strokes of guitar. Kyle played with two locals who haunt Uptown Cafe and was pushed back in my recliner as the support howled under his vocals.

The set passed in waves with one song hitting only to allow minutes of laughter and talking. Eventually, he stumbled to my porch with a friend

spirit and unbound creativity. His songs are on endless mixtapes and many people left by telling them the impression the nighttime deck show had.

Over the last few days since the show, the town has tightened together even more. Stories about meeting up with Kyle or skateboarding with him have sneaked into many things other people tell me. I got a call to my radio show the moment I brought up the Little Wings' performance. Just another person to tell me about how they were talking about laying down tracks with Kyle. He's our true local celebrity. Probably the only one that can pull people to my backyard on a Thursday night last minute for what is essential-

**(Kyle Field performed) in my living room for free last Thursday night as he traveled up the coast. No soccer moms, no NPR listeners, no fans of albums that never leave room for exploration.**

ly one artist playing his instrument so freely. carting the last few vinyl copies of his album that has no plans of being repressed. During the final songs, I lit a cigarette and handed it to his stumbling fingers that could still produce beautiful, lonely, wandering folk. It was dark, silent and intimate until the last song.

As he explained, he is 38 now and lives with his mother. His knee has been screwed up by a skateboarding accident. My point in mentioning this is that Kyle Field is not only an important local musician, but a national one as well. Kyle embodies independent

ly one artist playing his instrument so freely.

Show Tip: I'm running my first show of the quarter on Valentine's Day at the Steynberg Gallery. Canadian freak pop group They Shoot Horses, Don't They? will pour sweat all over the floor for us as Part Time Outlaw and Cub Scout Day Camp open up the show. It does slightly say romantic date. But even more, it endearingly says that you're single and crazy in a way that almost nothing else can.

## got oscar?

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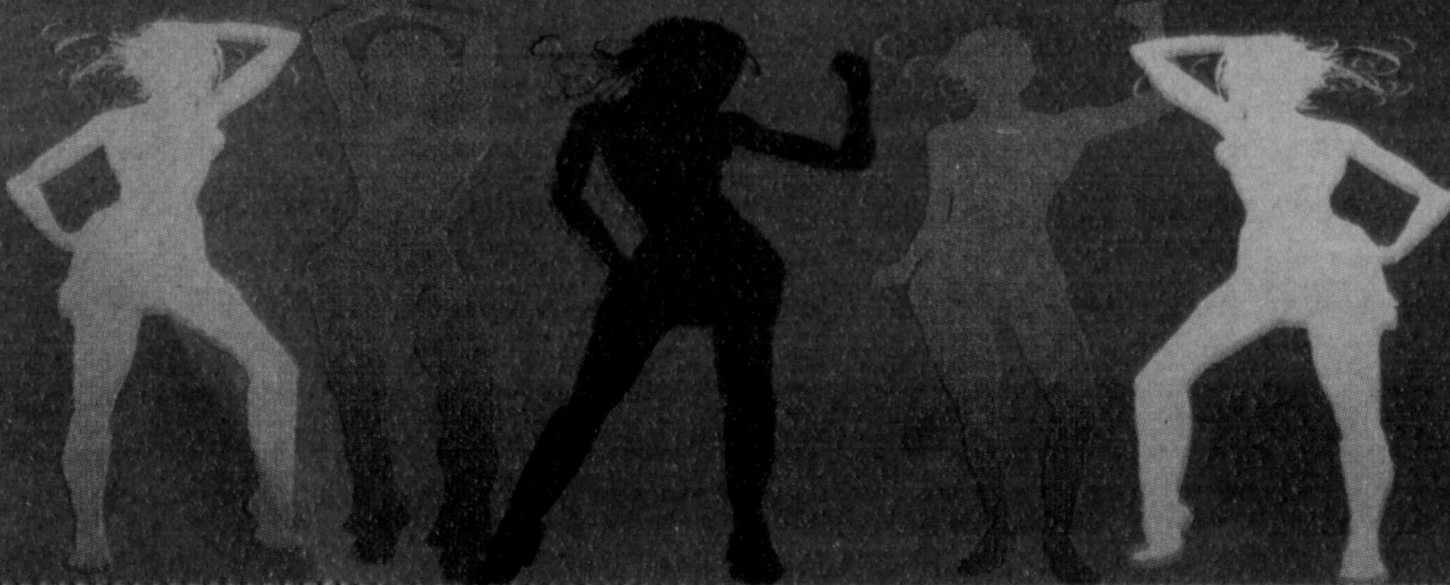
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## Poly DanceSport founder having a 'ball'

Janelle Eastridge  
MUSTANG DAILY

It is 11 a.m. on Saturday, an hour before the first dance of the day begins. Outside the rain is pouring down, but inside, soon-to-compete ballroom dancers carefully apply makeup, secure hair, and change into elaborate, sequined and bead-adorned dresses and tuxedos — or jeans and T-shirts.

On the dance floor, couples are practicing intricate steps, warming up for their dances. In the background, Michael Bubl's "Feeling Good," Norah Jones' "Come Away With Me," and Jennifer Lopez's "Let's Get Loud" play as couples glide gracefully across the floor.

In the midst of the mild chaos, Christopher Ellwood busily rushes around, practicing for one of his 32 dances and hammering out last-minute details before the competition actually begins.

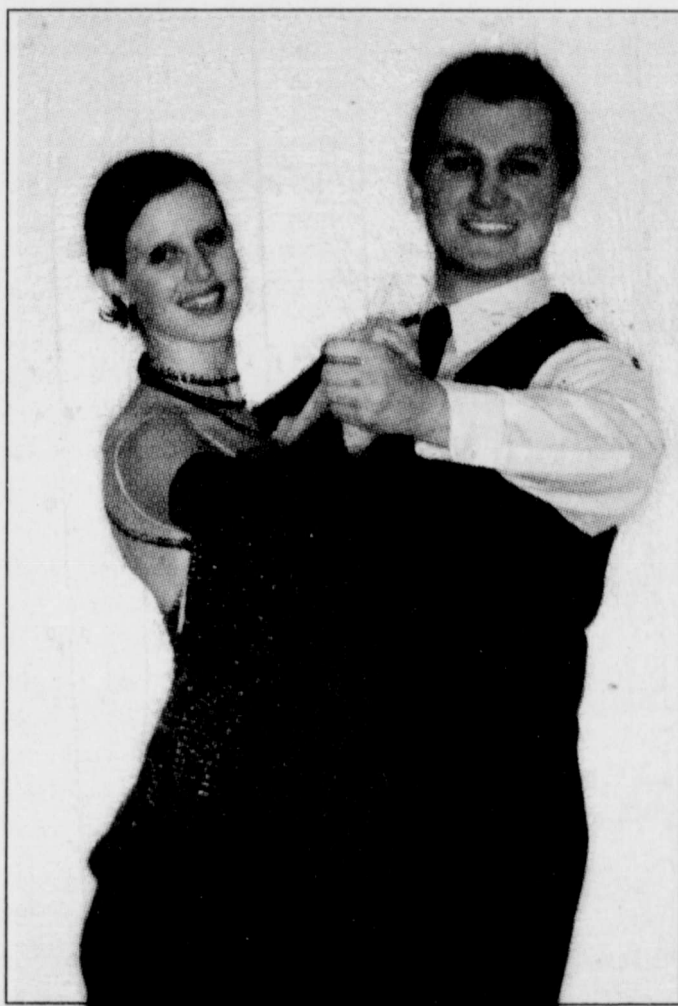
Ellwood's dream of hosting a ballroom dancing competition in San Luis Obispo finally became a reality this weekend as Cal Poly hosted its first annual Mustang Ball. The event was held in Chumash Auditorium Saturday, with members of the Red Hat Society, proud parents and grandparents, and fellow students watching from the sidelines.

Ellwood, the 2003 computer science graduate, who co-advises the ballroom dance club on a volunteer basis, but first joined the club his junior year at Cal Poly.

With a passion for music, especially jazz music (he played trumpet in a jazz band in high school), Ellwood first attended the club for fun. As time went on and he became more involved in the program, he was hooked.

"I really love music, so dancing is like the ultimate level of this appreciation," Ellwood said. "And it's a social thing. You can go to a dance where you don't know anyone, but at the end of the night you'll have 50 new friends because the dancing community is so welcoming."

A few years ago, he saw the need for a more structured venue in which to practice for, and give



COURTESY PHOTO

**Cal Poly DanceSport founder Christopher Ellwood hosted the first-ever Mustang Ball this past weekend in Chumash Auditorium.**

advice concerning upcoming competitions. Thus, the Cal Poly DanceSports Team was formed in January of 2003.

Though still considered a club, ASI has not yet labeled the team with "sports" status. As the team anxiously await this status, Ellwood hopes that this ongoing, "frustrating process" will end soon.

Since Ellwood first joined the team, there has been talk about hosting a competition at Cal Poly; until this year, though, the idea had not progressed further than this.

Since most schools and studios generally only compete in their region (i.e. Northern or Southern California only), it has been Ellwood's hope that, by hosting an event in Central California, this gap would be bridged.

"We're a common meeting point for everyone to dance and compete against people they wouldn't normally compete against," he said.

This year's Mustang Ball, hopefully the first of many, has been about a year and a half in the making, Ellwood said.

After looking at all the possible dates for holding the competition, the Feb. 10 date was set.

With the date and venue in

place, the bulk of the preparations began in earnest last summer. The "pretty extensive process" included setting up a Web site, publicizing the event around San Luis Obispo and throughout California, and securing the judges.

In retrospect, the day of the event was full of mixed emotions.

"It was definitely stressful at times — it has been a long ordeal — but it was also exciting because it was actually coming together. In the back of your mind, there's always worry: 'What if something goes wrong? What if a judge doesn't show up?' But it was mostly exciting," Ellwood said.

Now that the competition has been successfully completed, all the worry and stress of planning have been pushed aside — at least until planning begins again for next year.

"What made all the planning and hard work worth it was seeing everyone having such a good time. People enjoyed watching. People enjoyed dancing. And that made everything worthwhile — we achieved that goal," he said.

Ellwood credits the team of volunteers, club officers, and community supporters who worked with him for everything coming together and running as smoothly as it did.

His dream is that these dancers — and hopefully more in the future — will be able to attend the Mustang Ball on a yearly basis, and that their love of dance will be infectious to the Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo communities alike.

Every Thursday, the club holds lessons in the Architecture building at 8 p.m. Until the end of the quarter, they will be teaching the samba and the rumba.

More information on the Ballroom Dancing Club and DanceSport Team can be found at their Web site, [www.cpdancesports.org](http://www.cpdancesports.org).

## 'Loverspeak' poetry contest to reflect Valentine mood

Amanda Retzer  
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly annual literary magazine Byzantium is hosting a poetry reading called "Loverspeak" today at 8 p.m. in Ag Engineering building, room 123. The reading will raise money for the magazine's upcoming yearly publication.

All of the speakers are Cal Poly English professors who will each be reading their own poetry as a pre-Valentine's Day production.

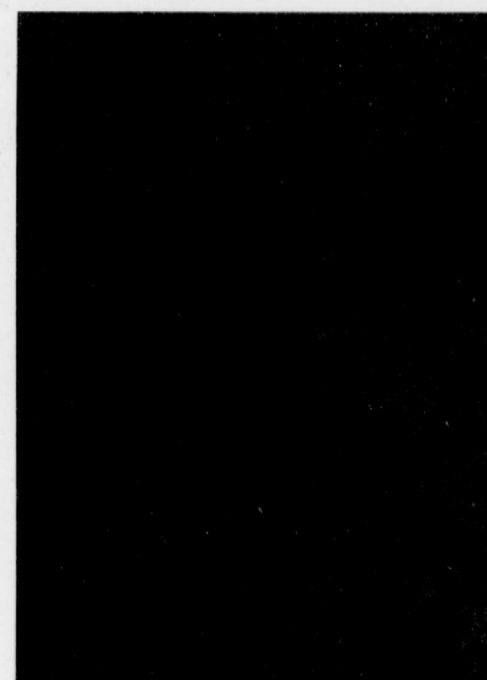
Cal Poly's Byzantium is officially called a literary magazine, although it is published like a book. It features poems and stories written by Cal Poly students from all different majors.

"It's a creative writing contest and we choose the top four poems and the top four short stories," English major Maghan Bailey said.

Previous editions of the Byzantium will be sold, and donations are welcome at the event.

"The money will go towards the production of the magazine. In previous years, (the Byzantium staff) had to raise about \$8,000 to produce the book, so we're hoping to get in as many donations as we can," Bailey said.

Committees comprised of faculty members blindly judge the poems and decide on first, second and third place winners, along with one hon-



COURTESY PHOTO

**The Cal Poly literary magazine Byzantium is hosting a Valentine's Day poetry reading and fundraiser today.**

orable mention for each type of work. These eight pieces are then printed in the magazine, which is published annually.

The magazine is run by undergraduate students, and co-edited by two senior English majors, who worked for months on the magazine as a senior project. Beside Bailey, this year's issue is co-edited by David Schwartz, also accompanied by the student art director, Julian Caustita.

Byzantium has won numerous literary awards and is sold at the El Corral Bookstore.

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## No Styrofoam at VG Cafe

Melissa Montecucullo  
CAMPUS DINING STAFF WRITER

As of January 29th, VG Cafe is "Foam Free." Wash and reuse dinnerware is used for eat-in meals and "Clam Shells" for take-out are a compostable product developed by the Industrial Technology Department. Cold drink beverage containers are recyclable, and hot cups are paper. No polystyrene containers at VG Cafe!

For many years it has been the goal of Cal Poly Campus Dining to reduce the use of polystyrene, otherwise known as styrofoam. According to Alan Cushman, Associate Director

going, going, gone!

of Campus Dining, Cal Poly has several ways that they have cut back the use of styrofoam and other non-recyclable products.

Selling reusable mugs and offering discounts when customers use them is a major way to cut back on styrofoam use. For example at BackStage Pizza when you buy a 32 oz. sports bottle for \$1.99, refills are only 75¢. Various styles of reusable mugs are sold at other campus restaurants.

Choices in take-out packaging are another important way to reduce use of polystyrene.

BackStage Pizza uses cardboard boxes and "slice trays" to hold their pizza. Tapango's and Campus Market use paper wraps instead of "foam." Take out containers are available at Veranda Cafe and Garden Grille, but only on request, with most meals being served on reusable dinner ware.

Other Campus Dining areas will be switching from polystyrene to alternative containers over the next few months. Watch for compostable coffee cups at Julian's early in March.

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# Chicks rule at Grammys, multiple veterans snag trophies

Nekesa Mumbi Moody  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Without "American Idol" to worry about, the Grammy Awards bounced back strongly in the ratings this year.

An estimated 20.1 million people watched the Dixie Chicks take home every trophy they were eligible for Sunday night. That's up 18 percent from last season, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Last year Grammy organizers decided to go head-to-head with "American Idol" on a Wednesday night and were clobbered; the telecast's 17 million viewers represented the smallest audience in the show's history.

This year the Grammys moved back to Sunday night. The show even gave a nod of respect to "American Idol" by holding a contest where an amateur singer had a spotlight duet with Justin Timberlake.

The Recording Academy embraced more serious fare by veteran artists on Sunday, showering the Dixie Chicks with five awards, including the rare trifecta of record, album, and song of the year. Mary J. Blige won three for her comeback record "The Breakthrough," the biggest mainstream success in her 15-year career. And four trophies went to the Red Hot Chili Peppers for their hit album "Stadium Arcadium."

Meanwhile, Justin Timberlake took home two trophies in little-

noticed side-categories.

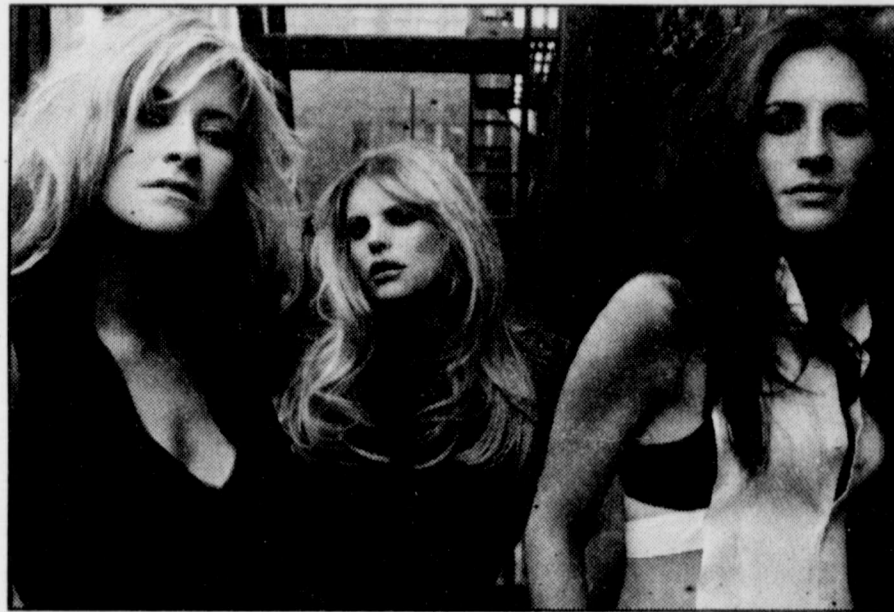
British singer-songwriters Corinne Bailey Rae and James Blunt, both newcomers nominated for multiple awards, were shut out.

And two of the year's biggest hits, "Hips Don't Lie" and "Promiscuous," didn't get any awards — both lost out to a remake of Stevie Wonder's decades-old hit "For Once In My Life," performed by Wonder and 80-year-old Tony Bennett.

There were many such "Granny"

moments at the 49th annual awards show. Despite flashes of youth in performances by Timberlake, John Mayer and Chris Brown, the show had a definite VH1 Classics appeal, from the kickoff by the reunited Police — who were not nominated for any awards and had no purpose except to draw audiences — to the tributes that lovingly recalled the fading music industry's golden years.

Perhaps the only moment that seemed to have any cutting-edge element was the "My Grammy Moment," in which three young women vied for a spot to sing with Timberlake. The winner, 19-year-old Robyn Troup, was determined by text messages and Internet votes. The con-



COURTESY PHOTO

Controversial trio the Dixie Chicks (left to right: Martie Maguire, Natalie Maines and Emily Robison) won big at the Grammys.

test was an obvious nod to "American Idol," the TV talent competition that crushed the Grammys when it went head-to-head on a Wednesday night last year, prompting the Grammys to flee back to Sunday.

The Dixie Chicks won all five awards they were nominated for, including album of the year for "Taking the Long Way," and record and song of the year for "Not Ready to Make Nice," their defiant anthem penned by songwriter Dan Wilson. It was sweet vindication after the superstars' lives were threatened and their record sales plummeted when feisty lead singer Natalie Maines criticized President Bush on the eve of the Iraq war in 2003. Almost overnight, one of the most successful

groups of any genre was boycotted by Nashville and disappeared from country radio.

With "Taking the Long Way," the women relied on renowned producer Rick Rubin's guidance for an album that was more rock and less country. (Rubin, who also produced "Stadium Arcadium," was honored as producer of the year.)

The standing ovations the Chicks received Sunday illustrated how much the political climate has changed regarding the Iraq war, and even Bush.

"That's interesting," Maines crowed from the podium after the country award was handed out earlier in the night. "Well, to quote the great 'Simpsons' — 'Heh-Heh.'"

"Just kidding," added Maines. "A lot of people just turned their TVs off right now. I'm very sorry for that."

Bandmate Emily Robison noted, "We wouldn't have done this album without everything we went through, so we have no regrets."

All the trophies collected by the Dixie Chicks, Blige and the Chili Peppers contributed to the evening's

old-school feel. Though the show featured a medley with bright new stars such as Ray and double-winners Mayer and John Legend, it relied heavily on the classics: Lionel Richie sang his '80s hit "Hello" and Smokey Robinson sang his Motown classic "The Tracks of My Tears" in a tribute to R&B. (Both were nominees this year.) Rock and Roll Hall of Fammers The Police, who split in 1984, reunited to kick off the show with their rendition of "Roxanne."

Even some of the more contemporary artists were relegated to singing songs that weren't their own. Christina Aguilera, a winner for female pop vocal performance, sang the late James Brown's "It's A Man's Man's World" instead of her own nominated songs. Carrie Underwood, the newcomer with one of last year's most successful albums, crooned The Eagles' "Desperado" and "San Antonio Rose" instead of her signature tune "Jesus, Take the Wheel," which was nominated for song of the year.

Blige was the overall nominations leader with eight. She won best R&B album for "The Breakthrough," her double-platinum triumph, plus best female R&B performance and R&B song for "Be Without You."

A tearful Blige said her album "has not only shown that I am a musician and an artist and a writer, it also shows I am growing into a better human being."



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**HUMOR COLUMN**

**Write your own Valentine's Day poem**

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day. It is a holiday about love, but the problem with the holiday is that so many people in this world totally hate it. For some, it is extreme bitterness about the whole thing; to others it is just a day where you have to tell someone how much you care about him or her.

As a guy though, I have a different problem, which many men share with me. That of course, is what the hell are we supposed to actually do? Don't worry though, guys, because in this "Guide to Life" I'm going to walk you through one of the easiest ways to really tell your girl<sup>1</sup> how much you care. Poetry, like really nothing else, can show a girl that you really put a lot of thought into a gift for her, while A) it is cheap<sup>2</sup> and B) you can make it as personalized as possible.

Before we really dive in here, let me just say that the new gift feature on facebook is no viable way to really show someone you care, so don't think you can get off that easily<sup>3</sup>.

The first type of poem is the classic "Roses are red, violets are blue" style. This one can work wonders as you will be able to tell your special someone<sup>4</sup> exactly how you feel, in one of the tamest ways

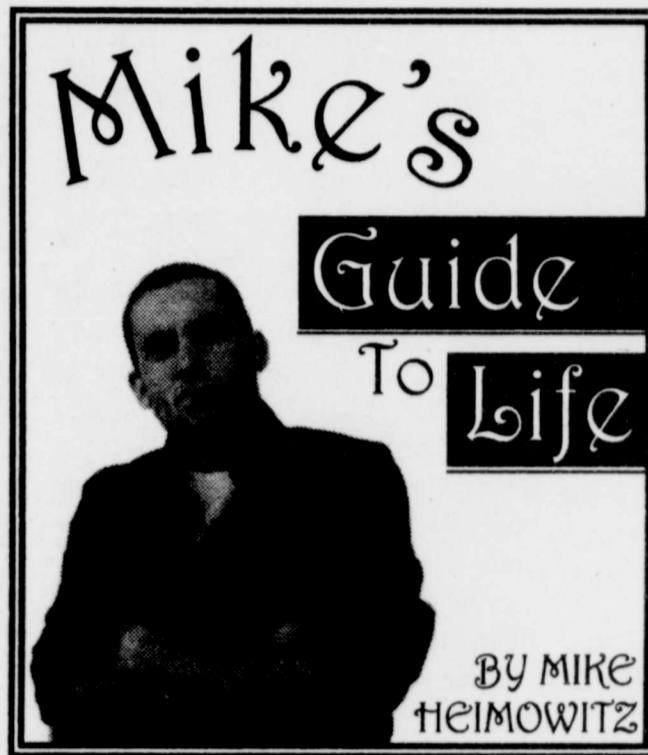
there is. Really though, the possibilities that you have for this one are endless. Go with something romantic like:

*Roses are red, violets are blue,  
talking to you for hours and  
hours and hours about absolute-  
ly nothing even though I have a  
midterm tomorrow and will  
probably fail because of this con-  
versation, is as refreshing as the  
morning dew. Straight and to  
the point.*

You can also do something like, *Roses are reds, violets are blue, seriously I didn't pay for your dinner for you to eat just a single bite and not even take the rest home, but I still love you.* Now I know that I might look like "Mr. Tough Guy" in my picture, but look, I still have a softer, gentler side<sup>5</sup>.

Now we move on to the next type of poem, which is the haiku. Traditionally, the haiku consists of five syllables, seven syllables, and then five syllables for each line. If you can pull one of these off, your valentine should be all over you<sup>6</sup>. Obviously, these ones are a little more restricting, but you can still get your point across. How about something like:

*Your hair so pretty,  
You don't need five hours for prep,  
Some things can't be fixed.*



See what I did there? I gave a compliment, and then followed it up with even more constructive criticism. Everyone wins with haikus like that. Here is another for the sake of really making sure you get these:

*"You don't need makeup, you are so pretty as is, truthfully we're just going to a movie and nobody will be able to see what you look like so what do I care?"*

Oops, OK, so I broke the rule of the Haiku, but you get the idea. I believe that you can pull it off.

The last kind I'll share with you is the limerick. If you don't know what these are, you're not alone, because honestly it was my buddy Yoav<sup>7</sup> who reminded me of the beauty that these poems possess. Anyway, "There once was a man from Nantucket" might be the most well-known, and if you don't know that one, Google it, and in the meantime I'll just jump into my own for you. Something like...

*There is no girl that is better than you, on a scale of one to ten you are a thousand and two, you just are so funny, worth more than any amount of money, now please cook or I'll find someone new.*

If that doesn't get your guy or girl to swoon over you, nothing will.

Well, unfortunately that brings me to the end of another one of my "Guides to Life" and like always, I hope you learned something. Between the classic poem, the haiku, and the limerick, you should be well on your way to a successful Valentine's Day. And hey, if you still don't care about all this Valentines Day stuff, just, I don't know, drink your sorrows away. Everybody wins. Love and peace and no need to thank me later for how great your day will be.

Mike Heimowitz is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily humor columnist. Without a rhyme, a dime or time, you can sign onto the fine mike-heimowitz.com.

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February 13, 2007  
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Mustang Daily

"Oh, God, Emily is grabbing my head and twisting it off. She wants me so badly."

**LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR**

**Celebrity deaths shouldn't trump real news**

As of right now, 3,118 American troops have lost their lives in Iraq. The Iraqi death toll is at a staggering 650,000 and rising every day. Fifteen million children will die of starvation this year, despite the fact that they could all be fed for a fraction of what the war is costing us. Why does the death of a single blonde, gold-digging, diet-pill-pushing stripper get far more media coverage? That's downright shameful.

Andy Scott  
Mechanical engineering junior

**Research void in 'Liberal bias' column**

I'll be pretty concise. To respond to Brian Eller's "Liberal Bias" article, he really needs to do his research. The last time I checked, I saw the LGBT Pride Center in a trailer next to building 52, NOT in the University Union, like he mentioned.

To sum up, Brian Eller is the most knowledgeable columnist in the Mustang Daily. I mean seriously... where did you guys find him? His col-

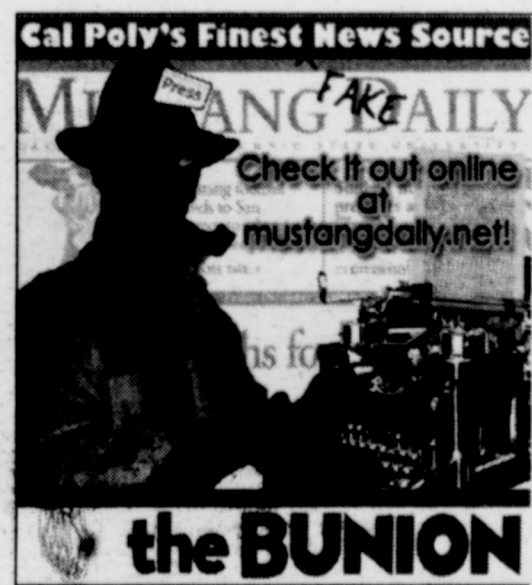
umn is always full of wit and he has such good taste. Bravo, Mustang Daily!  
Adrian Herrera  
Aerospace engineering senior

**Liberal bias not proved in Eller's column**

It's probably for the best you qualified the beginning of last week's conservative column with "proving (a liberal bias) exists...is difficult to do" because you failed to prove it at all. The closest you come to substantiating your argument in any form is quoting party registration statistics, which, while interesting, are entirely meaningless in context to the rest of your baseless speculation.

Here's a hint, having to end a sentence with "(this really happens)", doesn't exactly speak volumes about the validity of your claims. And as for your assertion that conservatives are against LGBT, minority, and women's rights? Enlightening of your basic world view at the very least, offensive to a vast majority of the student population at the most. To be honest, I agree with you on the premise of a liberal bias at this university, but your column absolutely failed to address it meaningfully. In the future, I suggest you avoid resorting to the same tired "victimized Republican" shtick that plagues all of your columns.

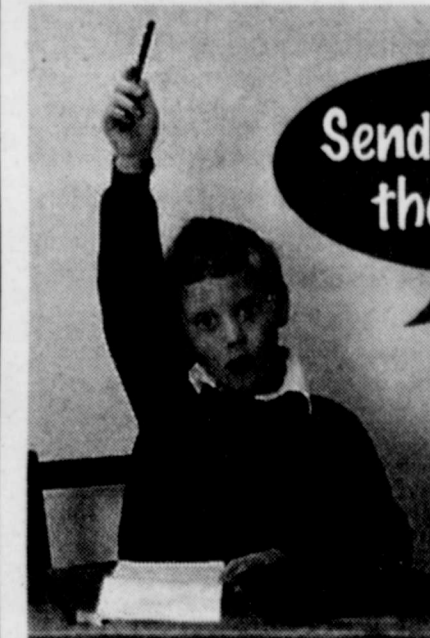
Kyle Brookmeyer  
Microbiology junior



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## Football

continued from page 12

James Noble ran for 1,009 yards and seven scores. The Walter Payton Award candidate became the first player in school history to surpass 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons, rushed for a school-record 1,578 yards in 2005 and averaged 5.1 yards per carry in 2006.

In addition to the 5-6, 180-pound Noble, another junior-to-be, Fred Hives II, ran for 221 yards and two scores last year. The 210-pounder averaged 5.7 yards per carry and provided an effective, bigger change-of-pace back to the shifter Noble. Hives II also played some fullback.

Mole is not the only former Righetti skilled-position star who will get some reps when Cal Poly begins spring practice Feb. 21.

Cal Poly announced in December that it had signed former Righetti and Hancock quarterback Jonathan Dally.

Aside from Mole and Dally, the Mustangs' recruiting class is highlighted by versatility.

Greg Francis, a 6-1, 180-pound cornerback/free safety from La Habra, returned two kicks, two interceptions and one punt for scores last season. He made 85 tackles and picked off six passes as a high school senior.

Jarred Houston, a 5-10, 175-pound tailback/defensive back from Fairfield, brought back two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns in his final two years at Rodriguez High.

Ellerson said the likely reason Francis and Houston served as return men at their respective high schools was because their coaches probably trusted them with the ball in their hands, a sign he's encouraged by when looking at their prospects transitioning to the NCAA Division I-AA level.

"They both have those kind of ball skills that tell you they can play," Ellerson said. "I love guys on defense that can catch the ball."

Another prominent aspect of the recruiting class is Troy Shotwell, the younger brother of Buck Buchanan Award-winning linebacker Kyle Shotwell and sophomore-to-be defensive end Ryan Shotwell.

Troy Shotwell, a 6-3, 200-pound defensive end/tight end, will likely see more time on the defensive side of the ball. That's where he racked up 86 tackles, 13 sacks and 21 tackles for loss as a senior at Dos Pueblos High in Goleta — where both his older brothers went.

"We believe in that gene pool," Ellerson said.

Ellerson, though, said that Troy Shotwell was signed for reasons greater than his relation to two of the team's top defensive playmakers in 2006.

"I'm excited about what (Troy Shotwell's) future holds," Ellerson said. "He's a good player and athlete in his own right."

The recruiting class also includes three San Luis Obispo County products — linebacker/H-Back Brandon Roberts and kicker Jacob West of Atascadero along with safety/wingback Jake Romanelli of Templeton.



BRENNAN ANGEL FILE PHOTO

Cal Poly junior-to-be tailback James Noble carries the ball last season. Noble will be joined in a deep backfield by juniors-to-be Fred Hives II and Ryan Mole. Mole is one of 14 incoming players for the 2007 season.

Roberts, a second-team all-state pick by CalHiSports.com, was the PAC 7 League MVP this past season in leading the 9-2 Greyhounds to their first league title since 1997. He had 54 tackles, one sack and one interception — returned for a touchdown — this past season. He also converted six of his 24 receptions into TDs and ran for five more scores out of the backfield.

The 6-2, 190-pound Romanelli

had 97 tackles, one interception, three forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and a sack this past season. He also accumulated 1,136 yards from scrimmage and nine touchdowns and averaged 8.4 yards per carry out of the backfield as a senior for the 7-4 Eagles.

"We know our area pretty well," Ellerson said. "We really like Jake (Romanelli), known about him for a while. He was probably the heaviest-recruited guy in our area. I also

felt like the kind of student he was, the kind of family he comes from, he fits so well here."

Other players the Mustangs signed include defensive linemen Matthew Duffy (El Segundo) and Erich Klemme (Long Beach), offensive/defensive lineman Stash McGuinness (Pleasanton), defensive back Angel Morales (Ventura), receiver/DB John Yessner (El Segundo) and running back/linebacker Jordan Yocum (Anaheim).



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## Ruark

continued from page 12

not make it back for this season, in an attempt to compete in the 2008 Olympics.

"Depending on how things go there I might keep training, but my body is getting beat up so we'll have to see," he said.

Ruark started pole vaulting in high school and entered Long Beach State ranked eighth among all college freshmen.

He transferred to Cal Poly the

following year and redshirted the season.

The accounting and finance student could have graduated last year, but still had one year of eligibility.

"I'll be very disappointed if I can't compete," Ruark said. "That's the only reason I didn't graduate."

Nunno said that Ruark will be missed at the meets he is unable to attend.

"Not only are we losing a pole vaulter, but we're losing a big part of our rooting section," Nunno said.

"He's a good team motivator."

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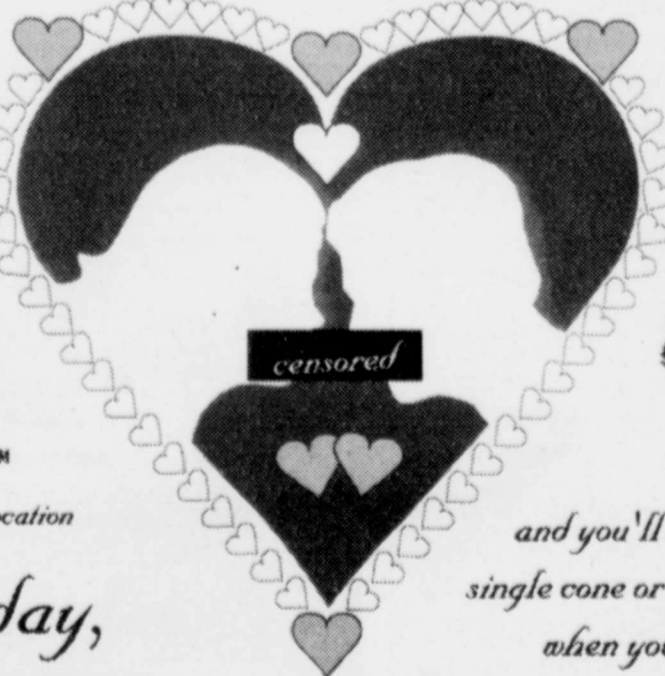
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Schottenheimer

continued from page 12

Running backs coach Clarence Shelmon, who's never been a coordinator, was promoted to replace Cameron. Shelmon accepted only a one-year contract due to what had been Schottenheimer's lame-duck status.

Three days after the 24-21 playoff loss to New England, Schottenheimer declined the team's offer of a \$4.5 million, one-year

extension through 2008, which came with a club-option \$1 million buyout. Spanos and Smith seemed visibly angry that the coach turned them down.

Schottenheimer has been at odds with Smith since the 2005 season, apparently over personnel decisions by the GM.

With a regular-season record of 200-126-1 with Cleveland, Kansas City, Washington and San Diego, Schottenheimer is the most successful coach never to have reached the

Super Bowl.

His 5-13 playoff record has taken on a life of its own. The loss to the Patriots was his sixth straight in the postseason dating to 1993, and the ninth time a Schottenheimer-coached team lost its opening playoff game. His teams have failed four times to capitalize on the home-field advantage that comes with owning the AFC's No. 1 seed. He was 47-33 in five seasons with the Chargers, including 35 wins and two AFC West titles in the last three seasons.

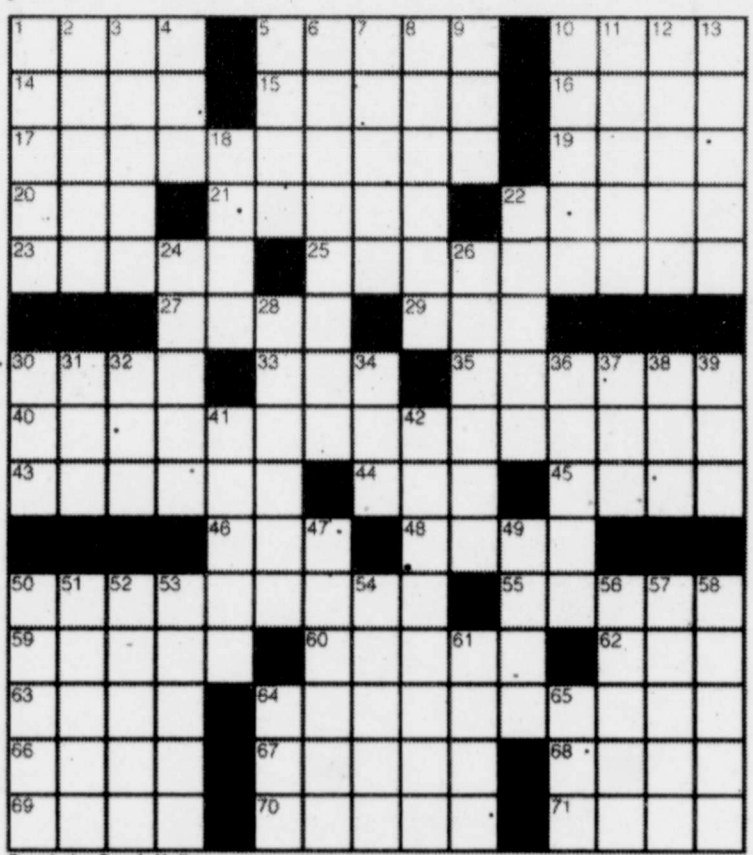
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0102

- ACROSS**
- 1 Water carrier
  - 5 Maybelline rival
  - 10 Hearty's partner
  - 14 Lex and Park, e.g., in N.Y.C.
  - 15 Head out
  - 16 Banned orchard spray
  - 17 Steinbeck classic
  - 19 It may be proper
  - 20 "The Atom Show" (1960's TV cartoon)
  - 21 Stunt cyclist, e.g.
  - 22 Pagoda sights
  - 23 A Judd
  - 25 Follows a healthy diet
  - 27 Like much music, today
  - 29 "Sprechen Deutsch?"
  - 30 Fascinated by
  - 33 The Beatles' "the Walrus"
  - 35 Sporty wheels
  - 40 Eighty-sixed wares of 1773
  - 43 Break away
  - 44 "A Chorus Line" number
  - 45 "Corno" (with a hint to this puzzle's theme)
  - 46 Ambulance letters
  - 48 Spider web, e.g.
  - 50 Indonesian condiment
  - 55 Get through to
  - 59 "Halt!" to a salt
  - 60 Kind of colony
  - 62 Agile deer
  - 63 Come together

- DOWN**
- 1 Song of praise
  - 2 Ex of the Donald
  - 3 Pasta topper
  - 4 French direction
  - 5 Sporty Italian auto, for short
  - 6 Eyed wolfishly
  - 7 mistake (blew it)
  - 8 Heads off
  - 9 Craving
  - 10 Ho Chi Minh's capital
  - 11 Go (agree)
  - 12 Yuk it up
  - 13 Dadaist Max
  - 18 Valhalla chief
  - 22 Van Susteren of TV news
  - 24 Fraternal fellow
  - 26 "Alas" utterer
  - 28 Hollywood industry
  - 30 The "I" in F.W.I.W.
  - 31 Alumna bio word
  - 64 Upholstery protectors
  - 66 Angler's hope
  - 67 Champion skater Brian
  - 68 Rustic stopovers
  - 69 "Family Ties" son
  - 70 Waist-ful?
  - 71 Docket item



Puzzle by Sarah Keller

- 32 Tic (mint)
- 34 Conductance unit
- 36 Brunch offering
- 37 Crunched muscles
- 38 Raise a stink?
- 39 Spanish Mrs.
- 41 That is: Lat.
- 42 International pacts
- 47 Four-star
- 49 Singer Guthrie
- 50 Rio dance
- 51 Be of use
- 52 "Try this!"
- 53 Reo contemporary
- 54 Stop
- 56 Skybox locale
- 57 Woes for toes
- 58 "Siddhartha" writer
- 61 It may be a lot
- 64 Jack of "Barney Miller"
- 65 Singer Damone

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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IHOP ELLA PUREE  
VAST BOOB EMAIL  
IRE COTTONCANDY  
CAGIER BEIN  
ANTONAL REESES  
PARIS GOATS UVA  
OLDS BOWLS AGES  
LIE RAGES URALS  
KANSAS ROUTER  
ANTS PASSUP  
ORANGE CRUSH HMO  
VERDE RASH TABS  
INNER OREO ACRE  
DOORS DART OKAY

Poly junior guard Whiten named Big West Co-POW

Dawin Whiten tied a school record with eight 3-pointers and scored a career-high 31 points in a win over UC Irvine on Saturday.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly junior guard Dawin Whiten was named Big West Conference Co-Player of the Week, it was announced by the conference office Monday.

Whiten earned the honor when

he scored a career-high 31 points and tied a school record with eight 3-pointers in leading the Mustangs to a 89-80 win over UC Irvine.

Whiten received the honor despite playing only one game this week. Whiten was sidelined with an injury for Thursday's game.

The native of North Hills scored his points by making 9 of 13 shots from the floor and 8 of 11 from beyond the arc.

The junior also made 5 of 7 from the line.

Wild Pitch

continued from page 12

West — Cal State Fullerton (18-5) and Long Beach State (17-6) — are ranked 15th and 18th, respectively, in CollegeInsider.com's Mid-Major Poll.

But behind all these numbers is a greater reason why the Big West deserves more credit — Bobby Brown.

Brown, Cal State Fullerton's

standout senior point guard, is widely projected to be a second-round NBA draft pick in June. The finalist for the Bob Cousy Award — presented to the nation's top point guard — averages 19.4 points and 5.5 assists per game. He poured in 47 points in a 94-65 rout of Bethune-Cookman on Dec. 16.

And the Big West sending players to the NBA is hardly something new.

Present or former NBA players from current Big West schools include Bruce Bowen and Cedric Ceballos (Cal State Fullerton), Craig Hodges and Bryon Russell (Long Beach State), Brian Shaw (UC Santa Barbara) and Michael Olowokandi (Pacific).

It was not long ago that Cal Poly beat two Pac-10 schools in the same season. In the 2003-04 campaign, the Mustangs won at Cal (63-62) and at USC (93-78).

Sure, the Big West is not the Pac-10 or Atlantic Coast Conference.

But when mid-majors are discussed, it deserves to be near the top of the list.

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7	2	8	4	5	6	1	3	9
5	1	6	2	3	9	8	4	7
8	6	4	3	2	1	9	7	5
1	9	3	6	7	5	2	8	4
2	5	7	8	9	4	3	6	1

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## Chargers zap Marty as head coach

Monday night's firing of San Diego's head coach surprised many; irreconcilable differences between Marty Schottenheimer and GM A.J. Smith are cited as grounds for the dismissal.

Bernie Wilson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer was fired Monday night in a shocking move by team president Dean Spanos, who cited a "dysfunctional situation" between the coach and general manager A.J. Smith.

Less than a month after San Diego's NFL-best 14-2 season was wrecked in a home playoff loss to New England, Spanos cited the exodus of both coordinators and other assistants in firing Schottenheimer. The coach had a year left on his contract and will be owed more than \$3 million.

"When I decided to move ahead with Marty Schottenheimer in mid-January, I did so with the expectation that the core of his fine coaching staff would remain intact," Spanos said in a statement. "Unfortunately, that did not prove to be the case, and the process of dealing with these coaching changes convinced me that we simply could not move forward with such dysfunction between our head coach and general manager."

"In short, this entire process over the last month convinced me beyond any doubt that I had to act to change this untenable situation and create an environment."

The firing was first reported by ESPN.

Schottenheimer didn't immediately return messages left on his office and cell phones.

"This decision was so hard because Marty has been both a friend and valued coach of our team," Spanos said. "But my first obligation is always to do what is in the best interest of our fans and the entire Charger organization. I must take whatever steps are necessary to deliver a Super Bowl trophy to San Diego. Events of the last month have now convinced me that it is not possible for our organization to function at a championship level under the current structure."

"On the contrary, and in the plainest possible language, we have a dysfunctional situation here. Today I am resolving that situation once and for all."

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips was hired as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, following offensive coordinator Cam Cameron and two other assistants out of town for better jobs.

Although Schottenheimer said last week that change was inevitable, Smith sounded concerned, saying, "Both in the same year — Wow."

Tight ends coach Rob Chudzinski became Cleveland's offensive coordinator, and linebackers coach Greg Manusky was hired as San Francisco's defensive coordinator.

see Schottenheimer, page 11

## Poly's Ruark hopes to vault back into fray



COURTESY PHOTO

Cal Poly senior Adrian Ruark competes in the pole vault.

The standout pole vaulter was ranked 15th nationally in the event before suffering a variety of injuries to his left ankle.

Samantha Freitas  
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly senior pole vaulter Adrian Ruark, considered a contender to qualify for nationals this year, injured his left ankle at the Washington Indoor Invitational

three weeks ago.

Ruark's ankle suffered five fractures and torn ligaments, muscles and tendons after a fall during his 16-foot opening jump, in what he called a freak accident.

"I've done that exact same fall a thousand times, but normally there are pads there instead of wood," he said.

The spikes of Ruark's shoe caught the wood on his way down while his ankle was still moving,

causing it to snap.

Ruark came into the season ranked 15th in the nation and was expected to help lead his teammates to a Big West Conference win.

"We have a really good chance to win conference this year," Cal Poly junior pole vaulter James Nunno said. "Every point counts. Not having points from Adrian would have a huge effect on us."

Ruark's doctors do not yet know if he will need surgery or how long his recovery process will be, although he is hoping to return to pole vaulting by April.

"March is all entry-level meets that I can afford to miss," Ruark said. "April is the month with all the biggest meets. If I miss those, it's going to be a challenge to get back."

Ruark did not qualify for nationals last year despite vaulting 17 feet, 3 inches and placing first at the conference meet.

"My first year at Cal Poly, I placed eighth at regionals and missed nationals by one spot; last year I got ninth and missed nationals by one spot. This year I was hoping to not miss nationals by one spot."

Ruark's injured leg has already lost considerable strength, but he is trying to remain in shape by working his upper body while his ankle recovers.

"He's been working out really hard and doing everything he can to keep in shape for vaulting," Nunno said. "When the doctors give him the OK, he won't be starting from scratch."

Ruark added: "Pole vaulting requires strength and speed. You need the whole package or it doesn't work."

Ruark will continue to train through next year, even if he does

see Ruark, page 10

### ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Visit [www.mustangdaily.net](http://www.mustangdaily.net) today to listen to free Mustang Daily podcasts discussing Cal Poly basketball, football, tennis and more.

## Mustang football recruits versatile, but most will redshirt, Ellerson says

Having won 32 of its last 46 games, Cal Poly typically redshirts the majority of its incoming freshmen.

Tristan Aird  
MUSTANG DAILY

As promising and versatile as the Cal Poly football program's recruiting class is, head coach Rich Ellerson hopes his team does not have to rely too heavily next season on its 14 incoming players.

The Mustangs announced their signings last Wednesday. Ellerson said the lone player he hopes can

have an immediate impact is Ryan Mole, a tailback who played two seasons at Sacramento State before transferring to Allan Hancock College and now Cal Poly.

"I would think Ryan has the best chance to step in and be in the mix," Ellerson said Monday. "The freshmen, frankly, have to have some extraordinary ability to be on the cusp of getting some playing time. We have that every year, with the absence of some catastrophic injury. It's better for their adjustment to college. It's a real boon for them if they not have to play in their first year. Inevitably, one or

two of them are going to find themselves in the mix."

Mole, a Santa Maria native and Righetti High graduate, rushed for 858 yards and five touchdowns as a freshman at Sacramento State. As a sophomore, the 5-foot-10, 195-pounder had 944 yards from scrimmage and received second-team All-Big Sky Conference honors. He will have two years of eligibility at Cal Poly because he did not play at Hancock.

Cal Poly already has a deep backfield returning.

As a sophomore this past season,

see Football, page 10

## The Wild Pitch



## Putting the 'Big' in Big West

Tristan Aird  
MUSTANG DAILY

The Big West Conference is better in men's basketball than some might think.

Here are the numbers to prove it:

- The eight Big West teams have combined for an 11-6 record against West Coast Conference teams. Somehow, the WCC is still ranked four spots higher — at No. 12 — than Cal Poly (No. 16) among 32 Division I conferences in USA Today's Jeff Sagarin ratings.

- Big West teams have combined for winning records against the following conferences: Atlantic East (1-0), Big Sky (6-3), Ivy (1-0), Metro Atlantic (1-0), Mid-Continent (1-0), Mid-Eastern (1-0), Southeastern (1-0), Southland (3-2) and West Coast (11-6).

That's right, there is a win in there against an SEC team. UC Irvine, which Cal Poly shot past 89-80 Saturday, dismantled visiting South Carolina (12-11) — a team with wins against Arkansas and Mississippi State — 67-52 in Irvine on Nov. 14.

The reason the Big West is stuck at No. 16 in the Sagarin ratings could partly be because it is tied for the fewest teams in its domain (eight).

Still, it is inexplicable for the Big West to be ranked four conferences lower than the WCC — which also has eight teams — when it has won 11 of 17 games played between the two conferences this season.

Granted, Big West teams are 0-8 against the Pac-10.

But don't let ESPN or USA Today fool you — the Pac-10 is indeed the best conference in the nation.

And when looking at that 0-8 mark, you must consider that three of the Big West's losses came at fifth-ranked UCLA. Not to mention, Cal State Northridge only lost 84-73 at No. 15 Oregon and UC Davis — which will join the Big West next season — only fell 84-72 at Stanford.

The top two teams in the Big West are

see Wild Pitch, page 11